THE PREROGATIVE OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE The Lord Mayor of *LONDON*, ASSERTED.

AN Act of Common Councel that the Election of Sheriff ſhall be made on St. *Matthews* day, and when the Commons ſhall be agreed upon an able Perſon they ſhall preſent him to the Mayor and Aldermen. 7 *R.* II.

Upon the Kings Writ to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons to chuſe Sheriffs, according to the Antient Cuſtom and Uſage the Mayor choſe one, and the Commonalty another. 16 *R.* II.

The Mayor names one Sheriff to be aſſigned in the name of him and the Aldermen, and then they left the Commons to make their Choice. 22 *H.* VI.

In this Year *John Perſival* the Mayor of *London*'s Carver, waiting at his Table, was CHOSEN one of the Sheriffs of *London*, ONLY by Sir *John Collet*'s, then Mayor, drinking to him in a Cup of Wine, as the Cuſtom is to drink to him whom he LIST to name Sheriff, and forthwith the ſaid *Perſival* ſate down at the Mayors Table, and covered his head, and was afterward Mayor himſelf. *A.D.*1486. 1 *H.* VII. *Baker*'s Chron.

One choſe by the Commons to joyn with him that was before named by the Mayor by his Prerogative; and alſo according to the Antient Rules and Ordinances. 18 *H.*VIII.

A Letter from the Court of Aldermen, acquainting one that he had been Choſen by the Commonalty, to be aſſociate with another before appointed by the Mayor, and by the Citizens Confirmed, *Lib. Alb. & Dunthan.* 21 *H.*VIII.

Speaking of the Election of Sheriffs, ſay, That the Mayor ſhall firſt Chuſe one for whom he will anſwer the Moiety of the Farm, if the perſon be not ſufficient; But if he Chuſe by the Advice of the Aldermen, then they are to anſwer with him; and the Commons ſhall Chuſe another, for whom they will anſwer the other Moiety.

Alderman *Martin* having been treated with by the Common-Councel touching the acceptance of the Office of one of the Sheriffs, declared in Common-Councel, He would if the Lord Mayor Chuſe him thereunto, who did Chuſe him afterwards accordingly. 23 *Eliz.*

7 Car. I. The like Act having been made before in the 36 of *Eliz.* only with leſs Penalties. All former Acts touching Election and Confirmation of Sheriffs (the Penalties having been too mild) made void: The day as well for Confirmation and Allowance for ſuch perſon as ſhall be Choſen and Elected by the Mayor to be Sheriff, as for the choice of ſuch other perſon, as by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons ſhall be Choſen to be Sheriff, ſhall be the 24. day of *June.*

Before this Act it was St. *Matthew's* day.

None to be Choſen or Elected ſhall be diſcharged, if worth 10000 *l.* If any ſo Choſen or Elected do not become bound before the next Court of Aldermen to hold the Office, he ſhall forfeit. If any Forfeiture ſhall be made by him that ſhall be firſt Choſen or Elected by the Lord Mayor, part of ſuch Forfeiture ſhall be to him that firſt in the ſame Year accept the Office. And if after ſuch acceptance other Forfeiture ſhall be made by any Choſe by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons, part thereof ſhall be to him that firſt after him accept the Office being Elected by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons; and that no Alderman ſhall by priority of Election be inferior to a Commoner. The Mayor not to Chuſe any Commoner while there is an Alderman Eligible.

Out of the Book, called, The Book of Habits; *Printed time out of mind, an Impreſſion of* 1617. *now to be ſeen, the ſame word for word with* Stow's Survey of *London.*

My Lord Mayor and the Aldermen, with the Sheriffs, meet at the *Guild-Hall* at eight of the Clock in the Morning, apparelled in their Violet Gowns lined, and their Cloaks of Scarlet lined, without their Hoods.

And when they have been together in the Council-Chamber a certain time, concerning the Nomination of certain perſons to be Elected, my Lord and the Aldermen come out, and put on their Cloaks in the Orphans Court, and then go down in order to the Huſtings Court, and there being ſet, Maſter Recorder ſtandeth up, and maketh his Obeyſance, firſt to my Lord, and then unto the Commons, and declareth unto them wherefore they are aſſembled together, ſhewing unto them that it is for the Election of one of the Sheriffs of *London*, and the Sheriff of *Middleſex* for the Year next enſuing, and the CONFIRMATION of the other Sheriff nominated by my Lord Mayor, according to his PREROGATIVE; and alſo for Maſter Chamberlain and other Officers.

But my Lord and the Aldermen go up to my Lords Court, and there remain until the Sheriff be named and choſen, the door ſhut to them.

Then Maſter Sheriffs, Maſter Chamberlain, Maſter Common Serjeant, Maſter Town-Clerk, and the Counſellors of the City, and other Officers, remain ſtill in the Huſtings Court, to take and receive the Name of HIM that ſhall ſeem by their judgments, freely and with one conſent to be nominated and elected, and juſtly tried out, not only by voice, but alſo by hands, to be Sheriff for the Year following.

Printed for *S. Mearne*, 1682.

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